

Green Revolution

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Utopian Manual

Park Abbott

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Is A Green Revolution Possible?

"The Green Revolution moves opposite to the Red Revolution—not bloody and violent, but quietly via persuasion and education. Not through government and the State, but through personal and family action. Not through control of some people by other people, but free of external controls. Wherever individuals, agencies and institutions distort and dominate the purposes and activities of other individuals, there the Red Revolution is active. Wherever individuals decide and implement their own purposes, they are part of the Green Revolution. The Red centralizes; the Green decentralizes." — From *Go Ahead and Live!* by M. J. Loomis.

The Green Revolution is more than a movement to the land. But a rural revival is surely part of it. Here I want to deal with five arguments often opposed to this aspect.

1. "People don't *want* to live in the country." Such a remark errs by the all-inclusive, unsemantic term "people." More accurately: *some* people don't; *some* people do. From indications we have, *many* people do. Scores of letters which we have published, and scores which we haven't, indicate a widespread longing to leave the city, get out of the rat race; indicate a wish for a productive life in touch with nature. And if economic conditions were more favorable, or if education encouraged it, that number would be much, much higher.

2. "There isn't enough land for everyone in the country." (Is it assumed there is enough land for them in the cities?) Here again a non-semantic, wholesale term: *everyone*. Not even the most eager Green Revolutioner assumes that *everyone* should live in the country. But certainly all who *want* to, and all who can be encouraged to, should have a *free and easy opportunity* to so live. (This is not now true.)

A good survey should be made to locate the total land available for modern small homesteads. As I have seen unused acres in Pennsylvania, Virginia, the New England states and all the mountain states, vast areas are available. There's a wide band of land through central New York State open enough for all in New York City to "homestead." See the February 1964 issue of *The Green Revolution* for an account of how S. E. Eisman is developing 30 acres in that area, bought for \$40 an acre. See the market bulletins of the southeastern states for hundreds of ads of small homesteads. See this October issue for homesteads and land for sale in our classifieds, and all our issues for similar situations in ads and articles.

3. "It sounds like the 'good old days'." Or, "You can't turn the clock back." As some of us know and practice modern homesteading, it is *neither* the heavy, drudging work of the 1800 farm pattern nor today's costly, technical commercial-farming. It consists of, and implies, rather, good *new* days, days of balanced physical-mental work on small plots of land (often supplemented by cash income from other work), using efficient small-scale machines, participating with nature and with neighbors in a creative, independent and esthetic way. Modern homesteading combines the best of both city and country, of both the old and the new. It all adds up to a new, humane, decentralized culture.

4. "The problem is not *out there* in the environment; it is inside—in the feelings, minds, psyches and bodies of—human beings." With this argument I have much sympathy. But I hold that it is too monistic, too either/orish. Most human beings *are* troubled and in conflict within, for lack of a true, accurate and acceptable Self. Much can and must be done by, and within, each person, himself, to solve this "problem." I agree that faulty problem-people create faulty problem-environments and social conditions. *But*, the environment, in turn, affects human psyches, especially children and all immature, undeveloped psyches that have not yet attained the selfhood and the strength to "master" outer conditions.

But I see no value in continuing wretched social and environmental conditions merely as a challenge against which to "grow" strong. Some philosophers, and some laymen, speak as if there were some virtue in "living above" environmental conditions, and doing nothing to create better conditions. The Green Revolution pleads for both: improve the inner man and create the environment which makes it more possible for children and the undeveloped to grow and fulfill themselves. This demands freedom of action, liberty in all areas of living.

5. "Cities wouldn't be bad if we didn't have an exploitive economic system. If we remove monopoly and privilege, if everyone got the full product of his labor, there would be no poverty, slums and unwanted unemployment."

Agreed. And this removing of monopoly and privilege is *part* of the Green Revolution, part of finding adequate, libertarian answers to the Possessional Problem of Living. (See May-July *A Way Out*.) If and when we implement these answers, then the *city*—and the *country* too—will both be as "good" 'as they can be. Then people will be free and able to choose whichever they desire.

So let's get on with the education—the re-education—via local, state and regional Schools of Living—to make all this possible.—M.J.L.

Letters to the Editor

Prefers Growing Peanuts

To the Editor:

Well, all the peanuts are gathered at last and hung on the poles. Not a very good crop, maybe; I don't know. About 25 peanuts for one planted. You don't get that many playing golf. I used to like to play ball till I was 12 or 13, but now I like to see something for my time and energy. When my neighbor arrives with his machine and offers to help me because I'm old, I wonder how Mr. Eisenhower would feel if a younger man came and offered to help him play his game of golf. It's funny about games—how some people can play them all their lives without wanting one single thing in return for the energy spent. Me, I like to count my peanuts.—F. Burn, Florida

Two-Family Homestead

To the Editor:

I have two 10-acre plots an hour's drive north of Toronto which should provide grains, potatoes, fruit, and animals for milk, meat and eggs to get two families through the most disastrous kind of depression. We have erected two sturdy cabins, have brought water to the land, have covered garden plots with spoiled hay and planted fruit trees and berries. We want to systematically build up the homestead and would appreciate guidance, especially with regard to the buildings that are required. We have access to cheap building material, and are financially independent. I need someone with experience and guidance in building. Anyone interested in sharing this with me actively would be very welcome.—Hans Birk, 76 Falmouth Ave., Scarborough, Ont., Canada

Borsodi in Paperback?

To the Editor:

After a chance of Mr. Borsodi's *Flight From The City and This Ugly Civilization* being reprinted in paperback by a School of Living publisher? Then everyone could have a copy. . . . Eleanor Woods and I discussed a western branch of School of Living library. I have an unused side porch that could house it.—Nina Johnson, Newberg, Ore.

On 50 Acres?

To the Editor:

I enjoyed reading Sam Eisman's illuminating article in June *Green Revolution*. I know Sam personally and consider him one of the most intelligent and capable men I know. But on 50 acres (that's a lot of terrain!), who needs a privy? That word probably comes from the same root as the word "private." Why does Man need privacy? Why are we ashamed of our bodies and of performing natural functions? I don't see animals hiding themselves when they defecate. If I had 50 acres of land I would go to a different place in the woods each time and cover it with leaves and/or dirt. In our socie-

Let Asparagus Fern Grow

Those who pick their asparagus closely or for a too-long season may be making a mistake. Next year's crop of asparagus depends upon the growth made by the asparagus foliage, or fern, this season.

Hence, the best plan is to allow the slender shoots to grow without picking, and not to pick the heavy stalks (in temperate areas) past mid-May. Allow them to grow into foliage, for the food in the top part of the plant will move to the roots during the fall months, to strengthen them and produce a heavier yield and sturdier stalks next year.

It's a good idea, the horticulturists say, to let the fern stand all winter, then early next spring disk it down or incorporate it with the soil with shallow cultivation.

ty, normal has become abnormal and abnormal has become the standard. In the next go-round I hope that I am a different type of animal than a homsaphead. — David Stry, Self-Appointed President of the International Society for Making All Animals Wear Clothing and Use Private Toilets, Cerritos 5A, Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Avoid Large Universities

To the Editor:

Author Colin Wilson holds that in most cases the home or homestead is superior for learning. He says, "Colleges today are great 'Mediocrity Factories' and the degree system a farce and fraud. . . . My advice to parents is: If you have a child with any originality, do not send him or her to a university unless it is a very small one. Students should be encouraged to stay at home and study, and the government should concentrate on schemes for education at home! For the creative intelligent person, already in a university, I have one piece of advice, get away from this stultifying atmosphere as fast as possible." Isn't that a real indictment?

I'm so enthused about your excellent *Go Ahead and Live!* that I'm giving a copy to a friend. It should fill a longfelt need among people who had a lot of stale knowledge crammed into their heads in school and college, but no practical help in how to live according to natural, moral needs of man.—Wm. C. Lloyd, 310 N. Broad, Burlington, N. C.

Correspondent Wanted

To the Editor:

I am a homemaker on a small farm where we raise some of our own food. I would like to correspond with someone who has a family living on a homestead where they are self-sufficient and who teach their children at home.—Barbara Woodward, Rt. 1, Pennsburg, Pa.

In Indian Territory

To the Editor:

We're off in Indian territory working with the Rural Learning Association which is an amalgamation of three older adult education bodies. This region is cut off, and something like your *Go Ahead and Live!* is good as a core for our regional program. This and the work of Arthur Morgan have value for the emerging Indian leadership as another alternative to living it up on Skid Row or dying off slowly on the reserve. To date, nothing realistic has been put forward which fitted with Indian values.—Cliff Bennett, 231 Briar Bay, For William, Ont., Canada

Homestead Report (July)

To the Editor:

We have been strawberrying like mad, the prospects for a large raspberry and blueberry crop are excellent and we will literally have tons of hazelnuts this year. Our bees are putting up honey faster than we can buy supers for them. . . . Interchange sounds like a good idea . . . perhaps we should have a number of them within our homesteading network in order to help beat the system. Here at Cass Lake

The Green Revolution

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Telephone: TE 8-4522 (New Lebanon, Ohio).

cash is very scarce and a tremendous amount of barter goes on.

Frankly it disturbs me that our colleges are producing young people who are intent on getting on the government payroll rather than preparing themselves to strike out and use their skills to construct a new world. The tragedy is that our institutional diploma mills perpetuate this system, with tenure and seniority the end and goal in life. . . . We must develop a college of self-reliance, a college that includes as legitimate study atheism, anarchism and an agricultural approach to life.—Gary DeYoung, Cass Lake, Minn.

From New Zealand

To the Editor:

I'm a high school teacher of biology and geography, a graduate of Cambridge University, and have lived in Australia and New Zealand for five years (age 39). I am trying to coordinate the activities of people who want to live in New Zealand, close to the land, in the same neighborhood as other like-minded persons; who see the importance of conservation, of handicrafts and light industry; who may want to become communal in time, who are concerned in education and a rational approach to life, who believe that heredity and environment are equally important, and who want to circulate name and address to others. I will be glad to put people in touch with one another.—G. R. Roberts, Waitaki H. S., Oamaru, New Zealand

To Intentional Community?

To the Editor:

There are many young people in New York who hate city living. They stay there only because nowhere else can they find so many "great" people to interact with. The School of Living could have an important message for these people; help them see that they can leave the city and develop their personal relationships in and through "community." I hope the activity of Abigail Grafton and Leo Koch with teenagers will lead to area School of Living meetings in New York. Similar meetings might be held in other large cities.—Ben Zablocki, Intentional Community, Box 281, Baltimore, Md. 21203

Utopian Manual

To the Editor:

I would like to receive brief concepts on building of utopian communities, with name or not as you please. I will see they get circulated. Utopian groups and individuals are often vague about what goes on, even in thought, beyond their immediate surroundings. Sharing information (continued on page 5)

Revive Utopia-Building

"We abound in social critics but our prophets are silent."—Elizabeth Janeway, in New York Times Sunday Book Review.

"The craft of utopia-building could use a revival. Altruism (in the Negro's cause, war on poverty, Peace Corps) is not an adequate base for idealism. It debases to a kind of SPCA morality—what Jacob Riis called the 'menagerie view' of human rights—unless accompanied by ideal goals for the society as a whole. And, unless we can formulate such goals and recover the idea of an American experiment of universal significance, no amount of altruism can solve what seems to me the most pressing moral problem of our time: the existence of a frustrated mass in an affluent society." — Jane Newitt, in *Change* (Center for Study of Democratic Institutions).

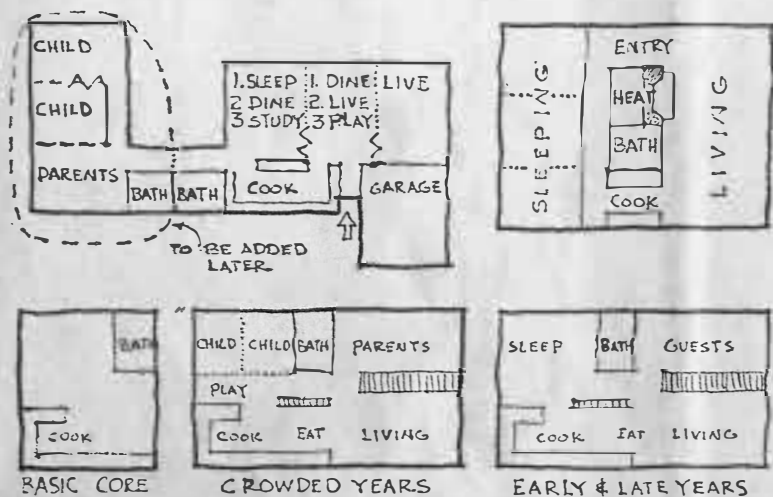
The Plan

By Ken Kern

(continued from last month)

The corollary of open planning is flexibility of space. "Double purpose" spaces can be created by movable partitions or adjustable furniture arrangements. Again, the multi-use of space in over-lapping of activities reduces floor size and thus building costs. Space-need problems that go with family expansion and growing children can best be met with a building environment that expands and contracts with changing needs. Sociologists recognize three family-life stages: early, crowded, and late. Each stage represents a different set of space requirements, which further illustrates how absurd the room-division of space really is.

Of course a growing family can move to a larger house, and then back to a smaller place as the family decreases in size and space-need. Traditionally, the attic and basement areas have been renovated when additional space becomes necessary. Another course is to design the house for estimated maximum capacity, and rent out additional space during early and late years. A more economical solution for the young owner-builder, however, is to start with a core for cooking, living-sleeping, and bathing. Then, as the family size waxes and wanes, space can be first added onto the core and later subdivided to accommodate activities of the sunset years.



It was Frank Lloyd Wright who first incorporated important open-planning concepts into his residential home developments. For a more spacious feeling, he integrated living, dining, and kitchen functions, yet located the kitchen-work area centrally between living and sleeping areas. Wright's entry and hallways were well planned. From the main entry one had *immediate* access to any part of the house; and the hallway functioned as passage, storage, and utility. Wright was perhaps the first to build against the public area and open to the private area.

Wright introduced some important planning concepts into house design and structure. Even 50 years after their discovery, these ideas have barely trickled down to the conventional mainstream. Today, architectural renegades surpass Wright's thinking to about the same extent that he surpassed his contemporaries. Wright spoke of *organic architecture* and the "natural house"; the new men speak of "free-form architecture" and an "endless house" (coined by architect Kiesler). The final form and shape of the endless house is determined from height, width, and bathing functions. The endless quality comes from the fact that any section of the house can be either closed off or opened up into one continuous space. Unlike a "room," this space cannot be grasped, measured, or apprehended at first glance. It has a charming indefiniteness of bound and elusiveness of volume which give it a natural quality unlike anything found in the contemporary scene.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Anonymous (20th Century)*, Leonardo Ricci.
The Hierarchy of Heaven and Earth, D. E. Harding, Faber & Faber, London, England.
Houses For Family Living, Gutheim.
The Natural House, Frank Lloyd Wright.

What Newspapers for Gardeners?

Every profession, indeed almost every person, needs the newspaper which best suits his needs. Magazines are easier to supply: the organic gardener has his *Organic Gardening* magazine, the NFA magazine, and of course *Mother Earth* from England, and perhaps also *Modern Nutrition* published by the Nutrition Society. But he needs a newspaper too—one that comes oftener than once a month.

Well, we took the *Christian Science Monitor* first. It came every day except Sunday all year long. But it was not quite enough.

Then we subscribed to *The Wall Street Journal* for, I think, three months. It was so expensive we had to give it a shorter trial. Actually it was THE very best for the organic gardener if it were not that almost by definition the O.G. is poor, or anyhow not very affluent.

Then we took the *New York Sunday Times* for a year. There again our poverty made it impos-

sible to get it daily. But just once a week it serves the needs of the organic gardener 100% and at a cost which is returned by the service it renders.

The *Sunday New York Times* contains (in this Sunday's issue) 416 full size pages. That varies somewhat but not much. 416 pages, 15 by 23 inches in size.

The *Christian Science Monitor* is far less bulky for the entire week's paper. The *Wall Street Journal* has stouter paper but so much fewer even every day than 416 pages. Everything considered—price of paper and bulk of paper—the *New York Sunday Times* is the best buy. Also it carries a great deal of news. Good news, bad news, "All the News That's Fit to Print."

Now we have tried only these three papers, but for weight, bulk, number of pages—all of which are important to the organic farmer for mulching his gardens—we have decided that the *New York Sunday Times* is the best.—J. B.

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ROCK PHOSPHATE, Colloidal Phosphate, Hybrotite (a potash rock), Granite Dust, Nitomin; also A & E Hybrotite.—Paul Degler, 51 Bethlehem Pike, Colmar, Pa. (on Rt. 309). (6-5y)

Homesteads and Homesteaders

20 ACRES in Ozark County, Mo. Unimproved woodland. \$500. K. Courselle, Rt. 2, Basswood, Okeechobee, Fla. 33472. (10-65)

HIGH, beautiful 22 A in pasture, hogfenced, cross fenced, pine woods, 2 springs, pond, young orchard, 3 gardens, flowers, an ugly and unfinished concrete block house & patio, smokehouse, barn, chickens, 7 cattle, well, some furniture. \$10,500. F. Burn, Rt. 1, Marianna, Fla.

Letters, cont'd

might be useful beyond the originating groups. . . . It is less of an ordeal to acquire farms and factories than change one's beliefs, whether the beliefs are based on facts, myths, hoaxes or wild surmises of the revered great. But some of us attempt to learn to some extent. It is this inquisitiveness on which the fate of utopias for ordinary people may hang. Those who believe a manual for utopians designed by them, kept always open for new ideas, might be useful, please send your ideas to Park Abbott, 1432 5th Ave., Oakland 6, Calif.

A Call, cont'd

will one day be prized by mankind as a most definitive and scientific way of thinking about man and his world.

That day may not be too far off. Our destructive bombs, the onrush of cybernation, the underprivileged everywhere demanding a fair deal, young people taking responsibility for a better world, all indicate the time is ripe for intelligent change.

One of the great cries today is "Who am I? What am I here for?" The answer does not come with ten box tops mailed, ten easy lessons read, or ten expensive sessions on the couch. The answer is an individual one, a continuing one, a matter of conscious and deliberate choice. Will I become a sewer rat (sewer-cide) or will I become a utopia builder? The time to choose is now. The time to choose is always now.

I give you my word that you will not find a more alive, informed and challenging group of utopia-builders than those who have gathered around Ralph Borsodi, Mildred Loomis and The School of Living. There is a place and a task for every single one of us regardless of talents, experience or education.

We invite you to find and take an active part in the specific plans starting in New England for a New Frontier by way of a new adult education. — From a longer item in the November-December *A Way Out*.

WRITE TO ME if you are troubled or heavy laden. Learn of Christ for he is meek and lowly of heart and he will bring comfort to your mind and soul. Write to me all your troubles and worries. No advice given unless requested. List of friendly Christian people, 75c. Basic Christian, 1837 Harri-man, Bend, Oregon.

RETIREMENT home; 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 odd acres. Moderate climate, good location. Organic fruits and vegetables. Details on request (please enclose stamped, self-addressed envelope). Price \$6,000—above available bank mortgage. Write owner, Rt. 4, Box 72, Hendersonville, N. C. 28739. (10-65)11

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DYNAMIC FORMULA—Revolutionary course in Facial and Neck Culture. It reawakens and preserves facial and neck youth indefinitely. Price \$3.00. Dynamic Formula, Box 376, Lynn, Mass. 01903 (3-65)10

PROTECT your hands with "On Guard," the farm-tested, most effective hand cream. When all else fails, this often helps. 2 ozs., \$2, postpaid. With each order, free "Cleanse With Care" sample on request. Hedda Maar, 1472 Broadway, New York City 10036. (9-65)2

Foods and Produce

ORGANIC carrots, beets, endive, swiss chard, parsnips, other produce in season. Complete list of health foods.—PAUL BOYLAN, SHELBYVILLE, MICH. b(8-65)11

Books and Journals

"COMMONAL: FREE WAY OF LIFE" shows natural steps for survival during strife of revolution! \$1 from: Star Box 32, Tecate, Calif. (10-65)

YOUR LIBRARY — USE IT—Books on nutrition, health, gardening, childbirth, breastfeeding. Free loan or sale. Products too! Yeasts, grain mills, supplements. HATCH LIBRARY, Saint Johnsbury, Vermont.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT—Send \$1 for first issue of *The Appalachian South*. — Native mountaineers tell about their folklore, songs, history, how greed erodes mountain beauty and human dignity, leaving widespread poverty. 62 pages, 9x12. Per year, 4 issues, \$5. Ann Williams, editor, Box 4104-G, Charleston, W. Va. (ex)

OAHSPE—"The New Revelations" for the forthcoming "New Age." The new approach to founding the "Father's Kingdom on Earth." Free literature. Fabro & Nell Hanks, R. 1, Box 206, Morrow, Georgia, 30260. (7-65)12

"PEACE OF MIND THRU NATURE"—guidebook to better outdoor living, \$1. Backwoods Journal, Paradox 5, N. Y. (Journal subscription \$2 a year, sample 35c.) b(4-64)

CALIFORNIA HOMEOWNER, a 24-page monthly, alive with sound economics, and action to return to the citizen the control of his own affairs. \$2 a year.—1571 N. Gower St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90028 c(5-65)ex

JUNE BURN'S book, "LIVING HIGH." Joyous account of homesteading in San Juan Islands and "troubadouring" throughout the U. S. Illustrated edition with Postscript, only \$3.00 postpaid to "Green Revolutionists" (Reg. \$4.50). Wellington Books, 346 Concord Ave., Belmont, Mass. w(4-65)y

THE GREEN REVOLUTION — 5 October, 1965

Journal of American Society to Defend Children contains an important paper, on Modern Militarism's Threat to Parental Functions, by Dr. Tom Brewer. Subscription free. — 163 18th Ave., San Francisco, Cal. 94121 j(9-65)2

DR. SHELTON's "Hygienic Review." A unique Health magazine — Radical, Revolutionary, Fearless. 12 issues for \$3. P. O. Box 1277, San Antonio, Texas. h(6-63)ex

GO AHEAD AND LIVE! Even as world trends worsen, our 200 page book is the more needed. As people heed the counsel here, the causes of war are reduced and conditions for peace created. Your copy for \$4.15 from School of Living, Brookville, Ohio. (6-65)

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER for news, letters, plans and ideas among persons interested in intentional community. Voluntary contributions. — Ben Zablocki, Box 281, Baltimore, Md. 21203 z(5-65)10

FITNESS — The comprehensive natural health magazine which covers organic nutrition and health from the soil upwards. \$3 a year (monthly), 35c a copy. Fitness, 255 7th Ave., New York City. (Published by Newman Turner Publications, Ltd.). (5-63)ex

HEALTH AND DAIRY GOATS Many healthful products from dairy goats: milk, cheese, fertilizer. National monthly magazine. \$2 yearly. Dairy Goat Journal, Box 836, Columbia 85, Mo. d(6-63)ex

THE BUG BOOK: recipes for harmless insect controls. Illustrations identify insects. Cross indexed, recipes easy to find and make at home. Plants to repel insects and wild animals. Order from Philbrick, Box 96, Wilkinsonville, Mass. \$3.65 pp. 5 copies 40% off. p(11-64)y

Miscellaneous

WILL EXCHANGE organically grown carrots (value 10¢ lb.) for a good make electric juicer. James Eastman, Rt. 7, Penacook, N. H. (10-65)

HAVING SOLD my suburbia pad, and severed other umbilicals, I plan on founding a Kerista-type colony in the boondocks of Florida. Wish to contact congenial bipeds; no squares, please. John W. Courset, 7 S. Maple, Mt. Pleasant, Ill. 60057. (10-65)

ESPERANTO — UNESCO approved interlanguage. Text, Pronunciation Record, loaned 60 days FREE. ESPERANTO, Dept. GR, Middleton, Wis. t(10-65)12

DO YOU KNOW of any good GERMAN BOOKS ON DIET and on organic growing? I can translate; have potential publisher. Ernest Kerpen, 721 De La Vina, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93101. (9-65)10

RUPTURED? PROVEN, New Home Method. No surgery, no shots, no lost time. Painless, inexpensive, details free. Wolfe Clinic, Dept. D, Box 145, Elkins, W. Va. 26241 w(9-65)11

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